

## GUATEMALA FORGERIES AND FAKES 1922 SCOTT 192-201

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The third provisional issue of 1922, like the 1916-17 issue, was extensively forged. The handbook *Guatemala 1*, printed in 1974, said that only the Type J (Scott Type IX) had been reported as faked.<sup>1</sup> Type J only occurred twice on a sheet of 100 and was the scarcest of the surcharges. However, since then all of the surcharge types have been found faked.<sup>2</sup>

One way to determine if the surcharges are genuine is to measure them. The measurements of the genuine surcharges are illustrated here. The surcharge image was produced by Eric Dyck using color separation technology.



There are a few quick checks to use which will preserve your sanity and eyesight:

First, if the letters in the surcharge are thick, broken and/or blurred it is probably a fake. Shown below is a genuine pair with inverted surcharges; note the clarity of the letters as compared with the fakes.

Second, the ink of many of the forgeries was thin and runny, unlike the genuine. This often resulted in the blobby appearance of the serifs on the bottom of the letters in "CENTAVOS" as well as the odd shape of the "S". The letters themselves have thicker lines than the genuine. These are easily visible to the naked eye.

Third, when measuring always start by measuring the height, which in most fakes is 16 mm.

### Footnotes:

<sup>1</sup> Goodman, Roland A., ed., *Guatemala 2*, pp. 398-9, Robson Lowe, Ltd., London (1974).

<sup>2</sup> See Ramirez, Gabriel, "Forgeries of the 3rd Provisional Issue of 1922", *El Quetzal*, Vol. 47, No. 291, p. 69, International Society of Guatemala Collectors (1997); Sauber, J.W., "More Fakes of the Third Provisional Issue of 1922", *El Quetzal*, Vol. 35, No. 244, pp. 99-101, International Society of Guatemala Collectors (1984).

